

Press Release

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MEGAL builds new natural gas pipeline in Bavaria

Mittel-Europäische Gasleitungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG (MEGAL), a joint venture between Open Grid Europe GmbH and GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH, is investing over €110 million in natural gas infrastructure in southern Germany.

On Thursday, 1 March 2012, the Essen-based company is scheduled to begin construction work on a 72-km natural gas pipeline from Schwandorf (Upper Palatinate) to Windberg (Lower Bavaria).

For the most part, the new natural gas pipeline will be laid parallel to the existing MEGAL pipeline between Oberkappel and Schwandorf.

The need for this expansion was determined by assessing and analysing demand by means of an "open season" procedure. This procedure, which was conducted in accordance with European regulations, aims to expand the overall gas network in a way that is efficient, environmentally friendly and in line with market conditions and consumer needs.

Although the new Schwandorf-Windberg natural gas pipeline will be supplying regional customers in Bavaria, it is not only of importance for that region.

As MEGAL Managing Director Hans Jürgen Plattner emphasises: "The new Schwandorf-Windberg natural gas pipeline will also play an important role in the integrated European natural gas transmission system – this is because the new north-south connection creates additional transportation capacity to Austria."

Commissioning is scheduled for 1 October 2012.

Open Grid Europe GmbH

Open Grid Europe is Germany's leading gas transmission company with a transportation network of around 12,000 km in length. With its ultra-modern, efficient system of approx. 12,000 km of pipeline and comprehensive technical services, Open Grid Europe offers and arranges innovative, forward-looking transportation solutions for natural gas and biomethane. Further company details can be found at www.open-grid-europe.com.

GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH

As a supraregional transmission network operator, GRTgaz Deutschland operates one of the most important pipeline systems in Germany, connecting the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and France. Together with the other NetConnect Germany partners, GRTgaz Deutschland is instrumental in simplifying gas transport in Germany and Europe and in improving the security of supply. GRTgaz Deutschland is also a shareholder in TRAC-X Transport Capacity Exchange GmbH and NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG. Further information about the company can be found online at www.grtgaz-deutschland.de.